

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BERNIE STONE AS IOWAN, AND VETERAN, OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, Veterans Day offers Americans time each year to reflect on the service and sacrifices of our veterans, reminding us of the freedoms and values we might take for granted other days. This is the week for us to pay our respects to those who have served and stand united in respect for our veterans. That is why today, I rise to honor a veteran who is a shining example of what it means to serve both in uniform and in his community. I am proud to recognize Bernie Stone as Iowan of the Week.

Bernie is the City Leader and Co-Founder of the Des Moines Chapter of Bunker Labs where he equips, mentors, and connects veterans and military spouses with resources to get them on the path to a successful business. He loves to help people achieve their goals and strives to help veterans find meaning and purpose after service. Bunker Labs is a national network of veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs dedicated to helping the military connected community start their own business. They are committed to seeing that every entrepreneur in the military-connected community has the network, tools, and resources they need.

Bernie moved to Des Moines in 2015 after a 20-year Army career that ended at the Pentagon, where he served as a Russian affairs specialist. Throughout his military career Bernie gained high-level experience in foreign affairs and national security policy as well as extensive overseas experience in Europe, Central Asia, and East Asia. He has served in five U.S. Embassies and was awarded the Medal of Merit from the Republic of Lithuania.

Bernie served our nation with honor and distinction. When he retired from military service and began the transition back into civilian life, he was surprised and disappointed to discover how difficult it was to find meaningful employment that would put his skills to use. Veterans find themselves in this circumstance all too often after service. In the face of that challenge, Bernie dedicated his skills to Bunker Labs so other veterans could overcome the same obstacle.

Organizations like Bunker Labs and advocates for helping veterans gain meaningful employment and professional opportunity after military life show that our veterans have the grit, skills, and work ethic that can help any business grow and compete. It is important to thank veterans for their service and honor them with events and national observances, and even more important to help them find health, happiness, and success when they come home. I am committed to making sure our military families can reintegrate into civilian life, and I will continue to fight for legislation

that ensures that our nation's veterans are taken care of.

I thank Bernie and all of our veterans who have dedicated their lives to serving this great nation. It is my honor to recognize him as Iowan of the Week.

TRIBUTE TO BERWIN HANNA

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend Berwin Hanna, who is stepping down this month from the Norco City Council. Norco, California, is known as Horsetown, USA because of its affection for horses, and few people have embodied its spirit more than Berwin Hanna.

As a native Texan, Berwin was raised around horses, cattle and livestock. Under the direction of his cowboy father, Berwin learned to tend cattle and train horses. Eventually, he would become an accomplished thoroughbred trainer and travel to racetracks from Michigan to New Mexico training horses. Berwin would later settle in Norco after being naturally drawn to the community because of its deep equestrian roots.

First elected to the Norco City Council in 2007, Berwin was motivated to serve and advocate for maintaining the city's rural, animal-keeping lifestyle. After joining the council, he worked to embrace Horsetown, USA's focus by developing more equestrian events and businesses. He was at the forefront of establishing the National Day of the Cowboy, which has quickly become one of the city's most cherished events. Throughout his time on the council, Berwin represented the city on the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Northwest Mosquito & Vector Control District and Riverside Transit Agency.

While Berwin will no longer be serving the city in an official capacity, I am confident he will continue to be a champion for Horsetown, USA into the future. I want to thank Berwin's wife, Diane, as well as both of his daughters and son for supporting him while he served his community. I know I speak on behalf of all residents in expressing my heartfelt thanks and praise for Berwin's significant contributions to the city of Norco.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER
CHRISTOPHER JOHN ARBUCKLE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who continue to serve this great Nation with

honor—men such as Commander (CDR) John Arbuckle, United States Navy.

For the past year, CDR Arbuckle served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. A 1998 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, CDR Arbuckle is a proud Naval Aviator who has also earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Kentucky. During his assignment in my office, CDR Arbuckle provided senior-level input for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Additionally, he executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of Virginia's First Congressional District with distinction.

Furthermore, CDR Arbuckle provided exceptional support to me as a staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Ranking Member. CDR Arbuckle dutifully provided me with guidance on what the Navy's path forward should be in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His recent command experience was invaluable to my work in Congress.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus and the Co-Chair of the Navy-Marine Corps Caucus, I relied on CDR Arbuckle to organize quarterly events with government, military, and private sector leaders. These events allowed key decisionmakers to work together for the advancement of our future Naval Officers as well as the construction and repair of the ships on which they will serve.

CDR Arbuckle also directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion, and he leveraged his personal and operational experience in the Navy to respond to the most challenging inquiries. In addition to his efforts locally, CDR Arbuckle took on projects with regional, state, and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions.

CDR Arbuckle's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers. I would also like to thank CDR Arbuckle for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, both for our Nation and our great Navy. His impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. I have no doubt that CDR Arbuckle will continue to serve the Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish John and his wife Allison, children Ella and Jack, the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having John serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that members of our all-volunteer force like John stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I thank CDR John Arbuckle for a fantastic job. Best of luck to him and may God bless him, his family, and all the Sailors he is charged with leading.

**NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE
PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF
2020**

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the House Oceans Caucus, I rise in support of S. 910, a bill to reauthorize and increase funding for the National Sea Grant College Program.

The health of our ocean reflects the health of our planet. The Sea Grant program's research, extension, and education efforts are essential to improve our understanding, conservation, and use of our nation's coastal resources. Affiliated with Oregon State University (OSU) as one of the 33 university-based programs, Oregon Sea Grant focuses on the ecological, social, and economic effects of many coastal issues, including evaluating development, adapting to coastal hazards, protecting marine fisheries, and understanding the cultural significance of marine resources.

Oregon Sea Grant also fosters and increases public understanding of ocean and coastal issues through its management of the Visitor Center at OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. The Center is an ocean and coastal learning laboratory for all ages. Oregon Sea Grant extension staff are based in coastal communities and along the Columbia River to engage stakeholders on topics related to ocean health and coastal communities. As Co-Chair of the House Oceans Caucus, I have had the opportunity to work with the Sea Grant program and witness the value of their collaborative model to crafting meaningful solutions to the most significant challenges facing our ocean today, like ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, marine debris, and tsunami preparedness.

I am grateful to Oregon Sea Grant for their many efforts to protect and sustain coastal communities, and especially their work to strengthen the resiliency of our ocean and coastal ecosystems in Northwest Oregon. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

**HONORING JOAN HARDIE
MUNFORD**

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Joan Hardie Munford, who passed away on November 11, 2020. Mrs. Munford was a businesswoman and represented parts of the New River Valley in the Virginia House of Delegates, where she was a legislator of accomplishment.

Joan Hardie was born on October 25, 1933, in Blacksburg, Virginia to John D. Hardie and Hester Price Hardie. Her family owned busi-

nesses including the popular Hardie House restaurant in the area. She attended Blacksburg High School, where she met her eventual husband Thomas William Munford Jr., and graduated in 1951. She then attended Radford College, now Radford University, and earned a degree in Education.

Mrs. Munford embarked on a business career, participating in the founding of a property and nursing home development corporation in the early 1970s. She worked as a licensed nursing home administrator for Heritage Hall in Blacksburg, and it became a chain with seventeen nursing homes across Virginia. She eventually rose to the position of Vice President of Operations.

In 1981, Mrs. Munford was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates representing the Thirteenth District and become one of the few women in the General Assembly. In the House, she served on the Corporations, Insurance, and Banking, Labor and Commerce, and Education Committees. She was an accomplished legislator involved in passing laws regarding education, child labor, and workplace regulation among other topics. By the time she retired from the House of Delegates in 1993, she had risen to chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee.

Retiring from the House of Delegates did not end Mrs. Munford's community service, as she served on the Board of Directors for First National Bank of Christiansburg and the Carilion New River Valley Medical Center and as a member of the first planning committee for Virginia Tech's Choices and Challenges Forum Series. She was an active member of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and loved music, especially playing the piano, throughout her life.

Mrs. Munford is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and David Harder; her grandsons, James Harder and Benjamin Harder and his wife, Jacquelyn Harder; and great-grandchildren, Cole and Airlie Harder. I offer my condolences to them on the loss of this community servant and advocate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote on November 18, 2020 for Closing Portions of the Conference for H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 222.

**IN HONOR OF PRECINCT 1 COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL "MIKE"
MEADOR**

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael "Mike" Lloyd Meador for his honorable 28 years of public service as Precinct 1 Commissioner in Montgomery County.

The Meador family roots in Montgomery County extend back over 100 years, and Mike has carried on the family legacy with his leadership and integrity. Mike was born to W.L. and Poodle Meador in Willis, Texas, and graduated from Willis High School. Staying near his roots, he went on to earn a degree in Accounting from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Always a dedicated member of his community, Mike has served as Montgomery County Commissioner of Precinct 1 since January of 1993. In fact, in December of 2019, Mike was recognized as the longest-serving commissioner in the history of the county. After 28 years in service, Mike announced he will be stepping down from this position in January of 2021.

Mike's time in public service has been as accomplished as it has been lengthy, and his exceptional management has helped attract commercial and industrial businesses to the precinct. Under Mike's leadership, several successful developments have been established; two community centers, multiple Justice of the Peace and Constable buildings, 17 baseball fields, and the acquisition of a grant to build a recycling center. Mike's tenure has been defined by honesty, integrity, and humility. He's always prided himself on maintaining an open line of communication with constituents, and remained constantly engaged with those he serves. It's no wonder he was named "Elected Official of the Year," by the Lake Conroe Rotary Club.

Mike's involvement in our community extends well beyond his role as commissioner—he is a member of First Baptist Church of Conroe, a lifetime member of both the Montgomery County Fair Association and Friends of Conroe, a member of the Montgomery County Historical Society and an active participant in the Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce.

Mike's commitment to his community is matched only by his commitment to his family. He and his wife of 50 years, Janie Houser Meador, have three children and nine wonderful grandchildren. I join them all in thanking him for his exceptional service to Montgomery County. Our community has been blessed to have Mike, and I wish him all the best as he embarks on his next endeavor.

HONORING ERIC BURMEISTER

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Eric Burmeister, Executive Director of the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, as this week's Iowan of the Week for the week of September 25, 2020.

Iowans have been through a lot recently. Along with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also experienced extreme drought, a derecho, and some communities are still recovering from last year's floods. One common issue families are facing as the result of each of those circumstances is a rise in housing insecurity, whether by damage to the home itself or loss of income to pay for housing. For far too many in our state, this basic human need